The Pacific

)1st Year (First Issue Aug. 1, 1851) JANUARY, 1951 No. 1

AVALCADE OF R. E.

Ministers and church school workers om the entire Northern California ea will find many items of interest the annual Cavalcade of Christian ducation to be held from Thursday vening, January 25, to Saturday af- rnoon, January 27.

The Thursday evening convocation, be held in the First Methodist hurch of Oakland, will present a anel of four experts, dealing with ne question, "Are our Church chools meeting the needs of today's hildren?" Included in the panel will e Dr. Harrison Elliott of New York,)r. Leonard Grindstaff of the Ala- eda school system, Dr. E. C. Farn- am of the Oakland and San Francisco Councils of Churches, and Dr. Ran- olph Miller of the Church Divinity chool.

Friday and Saturday sessions, to be eld at the First Presbyterian Church of Oakland, will include seminars for eaders of various age groups, exhibits, nterest groups, and further addresses by Dr. Elliott. Registration fee for he Cavalcade is $1.00.

P. F. MIDWINTER

With 43 churches represented by a few over 300 delegates, Pilgrim Fellowship young people gathered at San Mateo Junior College during the holidays for their annual Midwinter Conference.

The three challenging addresses by Dr. Vere V. Loper followed the theme of the Conference: "A Purpose to Serve, a Leader to Follow, a Fellowship to Enter." Discussion groups preceding the addresses were led by older young people, with ministers as resource leaders.

Not only were the facilities of the Coyote Point campus made available, but President Charles Morris of the Junior College spoke briefly at the banquet, welcoming the delegates and stressing the urgency of spiritual values in our world.

The arrangements and the meals were carefully handled by Rev. and Mrs. Terence Stoker and Mrs. Elizabeth Alexander, with the help of many of the women of the San Mateo church, who opened their homes to delegates and also helped in the kitchen.

Recreation for the Conference was handled by Rev. Ed Cunningham of Santa Cruz, and the Conference as a whole was directed by Rev. G. Arthur Casaday of Palo Alto.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 25-27—Cavalcade of Christian Education, First Presbyterian Church, Oakland.

January 26 — Northern California-Western Nevada Council of Churches annual dinner, Scottish Rite Bldg., Oakland. Dr. Ralph W. Sockman, speaker.

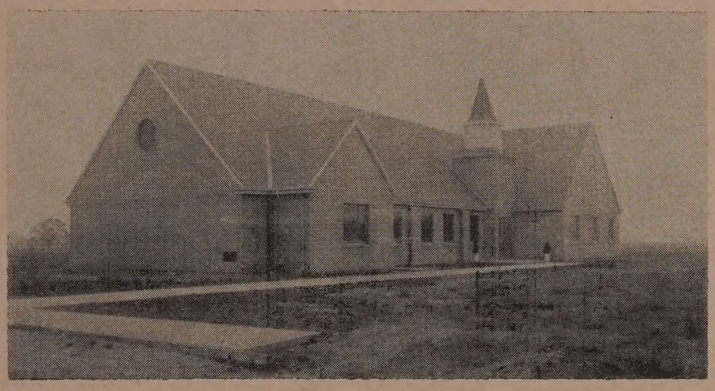
January 29-February 1 — Missions Council Meetings, Grand Rapids, Mich.

February 19—Inauguration of President of Pacific School of Religion.

February 20-21-22—Pastoral Conference at Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley.

March 25—Easter.

May 18-20—Annual Conference, Pilgrim Church, Fresno.



This is a picture of the new church in Elk Grove taken immediately upon completion. On Dedication Sunday, the walks in front and leading into the building were filled with worshipers waiting for the official unlocking of the door, and the presentation of the keys by the contractor to the Board of Trustees of the church. Rev. Fred W. Gross is pastor.

The story of our church at Elk Grove during the past year or two is indeed one of interest and inspiration. For a good many years it was a very small group affiliated with our California German Conference and limiting its work to people of German ancestry. When Rev. Fred W. Gross closed his work with the Ebenezer Church at Lodi, he was asked by the Elk Grove people to minister to them on Sundays. He at once saw a great opportunity. First, the Elk Grove people were no longer a German-speaking group, and, secondly, no other Protestant church at Elk Grove was meeting the needs of the community. He led his people in becoming a strictly English-speaking church and transferred membership from the German Conference to the Central Association, and launched a program which would interest a much wider constituency in the city of Elk Grove and surrounding area.

The property which the church had owned was altogether inadequate, just a tiny one-room white wooden building. Since Mr. Gross was not living in the community, there was no particular reason for keeping the parsonage. About the same time a member of the church gave some vacant lots. All three pieces of property were sold, which gave something more than a sizable nest-egg. About five good-sized lots were purchased in a new part of town and plans laid for a new building. Mr. Gross's experience at the Lodi church stood him in good stead. He enlisted the services of the contractor who had built the Lodi church and an engineer of his acquaintance and then proceeded to find among the people of Elk Grove volunteer labor and materials. There was a splendid spirit of cooperation. As a result, for the investment of about $25,000 cash, a beautiful building was erected, which, besides a worshipful sanctuary, has a kitchen and several Sunday School rooms, a choir room, and a pastor's study. It has a cement floor covered with asphalt tile, but with radiant heating equipment The walls are of basalite blocks, tinted a delicate pastel color in the interior

A very large crowd marched into the sanctuary for the dedication service on Sunday, December 17. Supt. Harley H. Gill preached the dedication sermon. Other parts of the program were cared for by Rev. Mary McKee Chester and Rev. Joseph Chester of Sacramento and Rev. Carl F. Brost of Lodi. Rev. Fred W. Gross, the pastor, announced that a very small debt remains on the building, which may easily be cleared in the immediate future.

This is one of the finest and most outstanding achievements that the editor of The Pacific has seen in our Conference.

SIERRA ARDEN FLOOD RELIEF FUND

The churches of our Conference did nobly in responding to the emergency appeal to help our new Sierra Arden Church. Nearly $2,600 has come in, besides a grant of $1,000 from the Congregational Church Building Society.

Immediately after the appeal went out Supt. Harley H. Gill visited the area and set up a committee of members of the Pioneer Church whom he knew and with whom he had worked, and gave them full authority to disburse the fund. This was done so that members of the Sierra Arden Church would not be in any position of embarrassment. The committee consists of Mr. Clarence H. Kromer, retired engineer from the State Department of Architecture, who knows building construction thoroughly; Miss Margaret Moore, retired school teacher and daughter of a Congregational minister; and Mr. R. W. Lorenz, official of a Sacramento branch of the Bank of America.

The church building was not reached by flood and was an exceedingly valuable relief center throughout the entire emergency. The flood came in four different onslaughts, the water reaching up to 4 feet above the living room floor, then 2½ feet, the third time just below the floor but flooding the basement, and the fourth time in the yard and driveway but not the house. As yet the full extent of the damage cannot be estimated and the community has not yet reached a feeling of security, for additional floods may yet come.

It became apparent that relief would be needed, first, for the parsonage as a building; second, for furniture belonging to the family of the minister;

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CENTENNIAL REVIEW

Now that the Centennial campaign has been completed it is time to take stock of our achievements. The Centennial idea was suggested to the Conference by Rev. Sidney H. Buckham in an address at the annual meeting in Berkeley on October 18, 1947. Later, Dr. Buckham became Extension Director. The Conference Board of Directors gave its approval for a financial drive for $100,000 during the years 1949 and 1950 at the meeting of April 13, 1948. A Centennial Planning Committee of 22 members was appointed to plan for the campaign. In the month of May, an additional "Committee of 100" was lined up, with representatives in every church in the Conference, for publicity and promotion of the drive. At the annual meeting of the Conference at San Mateo, October 22 to 24, 1948, the first edition of Centennial brochures was distributed, and an historical pageant on the growth of the Conference for 100 years was written and directed by Rev. William W. Meyer. At this gathering a vote of unanimous approval was given by the delegates present on the Centennial campaign.

Although considerable work had been done in preparation for the Centennial, the first meeting of the Planning Committee was not held until November 1, 1948. This was because the attention of the Conference staff was given entirely to "Our Christian World Mission" during the months of September and October, as requested by the Missions Council of New York. On November 1, the committee decided that Centennial contributions would be solicited as large gifts, Century Club memberships of $100, small gifts, and special offerings. May 15, 1949, was designated as "Centennial Sunday," and Mr. Albert J. Watson of San Mateo was elected chairman of the drive.

Under Mr. Watson's leadership, a Centennial Executive Committee was set up in January, 1949, to supervise the collection of money in the local churches. The Conference was divided into 9 areas, with each of the following laymen in charge of one division: Carvel Caine, James Yates, John Neukom, Ralph Anderson, Duncan Olmsted, Nels Sanderson, Ray Van Buskirk, Fred Smith, and Merrill Nikkel. This committee held 8 meetings during the campaign. Brochures, pledge cards, offering envelopes, historical material, church bulletins, and copies of the Centennial hymn (by Dr. Joseph Benton) were distributed in large quantities throughout the churches during the month of March. An educational campaign was conducted, making use of two motion picture films, recordings, and two illustrated lectures. The historical lecture entitled "100 Years of Congregationalism," was delivered in 42 churches by Mr. Buckham, and Mr. Meyer's lecture, "High Potential," was given 12 times during the campaign. The motion pictures were shown in 38 churches. In addition to these visual aids, numerous Centennial talks were given by Conference staff members and by the Speakers' Bureau before various church organizations. The Committee of One Hundred received 8 mailings,

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NEW MAGAZINE

A decision of far-reaching importance regarding our national publications is to be launched in March. The Missionary Herald and Advance are to be merged into a new magazine to be published twice a month and pledged to represent our missionary work as well as to be a journal of general interest. Dr. Andrew Vance McCracken, who has done such outstanding work with the Missionary Herald, will be the editor. The new publication will continue the name, "Advance," and the individual subscription rate will be $3 with club rates to be arranged. The new magazine will fulfill the obligation to subscribers to both the Missionary Herald and Advance so far as unexpired subscriptions are concerned as of March 15. This is a step for which some of us have been hoping for at least 25 years. Clearly it is the duty of our churches to push the subscription list. One of the weaknesses of our fellowship has been the failure to keep ourselves informed of fundamental religious concerns and our world-wide work. Pacific welcomes this new arrangement, and we hope that Northern California will be one of the leaders in support of the new Advance.

Yosemite Church Suffers Flood Loss

The Yosemite Valley interdenominational church was hit hard by the recent flood. The little church building in the old village, which has held such a warm place in the hearts of many Yosemite lovers, was quite badly damaged. Furthermore, a large amount of tents, cots, and other equipment used in the summer program was damaged beyond repair. According to the pastor, Rev. Alfred Glass, and our Congregational member of the board, Rev. John H. Gregg, the damage will probably reach about $4,000. Our Conference, along with several other denominations, contributes each year toward the budget of the church. The main part of the income is from offerings by summer visitors. If individuals or churches, who have been helped by the ministries of that church in the great services in the Bowl, were to send checks for Yosemite relief to the Conference office or directly to Rev. Alfred Glass, Yosemite National Park, California, it would be of great help and would be deeply appreciated.

PASTORAL CONFERENCE

The announced program of the forthcoming Pastoral Conference to be held at Pacific School of Religion gives promise of maintaining its usual high level of quality and inspiration. It will open with a service of inauguration of President Stuart LeRoy Anderson on Monday evening, February 19, and will continue through the three days following. Instead of having one Earl lecturer, each of the three evenings and some of the day sessions will present an outstanding speaker. These include Prof. Earl C. Cranston of the University of Southern California; Rev. Reuben Youngdahl, noted minister from Minneapolis and brother of the governor of Minnesota; and Rev. Walter Van Kirk, commentator on "Religion in the News" for the past thirteen years. In addition there will be addresses and workshops by such nationally known leaders as Fred Eastman from the University of Chicago; Rev. Herman F. Reissig, International Relations Secretary of the Congregational Council for Social Action; Dr. Elbert M. Conover of the Interdenominational Bureau of Architecture; Dr. Robert S. Stewart of the San Francisco State College; and various faculty members of the Pacific School of Religion. A registration fee of $1.50 is requested. Applications should be sent to Pacific School of Religion, 1798 Scenic Avenue, Berkeley 9.

LAYMEN SCHOOLS

The Board of Directors of the Laymen's Fellowship met on Saturday, December 2, at the Berkeley Y.M.C.A. Those present were: Chairman Herbert Hilker, Albert Groth, John Finger, Claude Smith, Jack Heinrich, Harry Mahany, Forrest Chilcott, and Sidney Buckham. It was decided to hold the Laymen's Schools of Churchmanship after Easter in 1951 since that Sunday is early this year. The Schools will be held on the four Sundays of April in Fresno, Sacramento, Berkeley, and Petaluma. Further announcement on the schedules of these meetings will be made later.

Grand Rapids Meet

Northern California will again be well represented as the Mid-Winter Meetings of our fellowship, which this year are to be held at Grand Rapids, Michigan. Mrs. Scott Haymond and Rev. William E. McCormack will attend the board of directors of the Board of Home Missions. President Stuart LeRoy Anderson is vice-president of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. Mrs. W. B. Buckham will be in attendance at the meetings of the Women's State Presidents. Mr. Harry E. Drobish of Oroville is a member of the Council for Social Action. Rev. Benton S. Gaskell will be meeting with the executive committee of the state chairmen of Our Christian World Mission. Three staff members, Supt. Harley H. Gill, Director of Church Extension Sidney H. Buckham, and Director of Christian Education William W. Meyer, will be present at various group meetings having to do with their particular fields of activity. Rev. Philip G. Murray has been in attendance at a meeting of state chairmen of committees on Evangelism and Devotional Life, which was held on January 3 and 4 in Connecticut. In all probability Rev. Vere V. Loper, national Moderator, will attend meetings of the Executive Committee of the General Council.

A TIME OF SHARING

For the past two years, a large number of our churches have responded to pressing needs in the world for relief and have helped to meet their own benevolence apportionment thru taking special offerings on a designated day for "One Great Hour of Sharing."

Ministers are now receiving from the Missions Council data showing that the need for relief is even greater now than in the past two years, particularly in the light of what is happening in the Orient. It is not being asked that this offering be taken on one specific Sunday, but that it should be taken on some Sunday during Lent. Therefore, it is being designated not as "One Great Hour of Sharing," but "One Great Time for Sharing." It gives us an opportunity to meet the needs of suffering people in Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. In this appeal we are being joined by 13 other denominations. Sample posters, offering envelopes, and leaflets have been mailed to our churches. Lent is coming up very rapidly, for Easter is very early. The Conference Board of Directors and the Committee on Our Christian World Mission would remind churches that a substantial offering will help mightily in meeting the goals assigned to our churches and which a very large proportion has adopted.

CENTENNIAL REVIEW

(Continued from page 1, col. 4)

and the ministers of local churches, 12 mailings. No stone was left unturned in trying to get the interest of the Conference aroused in this project.

During the two years of the campaign, 74 churches have contributed to the Centennial through offerings and individual gifts. A second offering was taken in 28 churches in the autumn of 1950, and mite boxes were used in 20 Sunday Schools. Superintendent Harley H. Gill carried the load in the solicitation of large gifts during the fall months of 1948, 1949, and 1950, which have totaled around $44,000. Century Clubs have brought in close to $13,000, church offerings around $17,000, and the balance has come in smaller gifts and from Sunday School mite boxes.

Efforts for the fund were pushed right up to the evening of December 31, 1950. Collections on former pledges came in, and new pledges payable in 1951 were added. A hurried unaudited summary of the fund now stands at $78,090 cash and $4,850 in additional pledges or a total of $83,040. This is as of the day The Pacific goes to press.

A year ago people were talking about the failure of the Centennial Fund. It is true that we did not reach the goal of $100,000, but the attainment of the amount above recorded is by no means a failure, and there are a number of good friends who have signified that they expect to share in it sometime during 1951 even though active solicitation will not be pushed. Half a dozen new churches have been launched, and at least one older church given a boost, as a result of it. Three of the four projects at Cazadero are cared for in full and some money on hand toward the central building. The gratitude of the Conference to all of the contributors is very warm and enthusiastic, and there will be improvements at Cazadero and new churches as monuments to the help which has been given. Not only staff members but many pastors and a large number of laymen have given untiring effort to this cause.

D.P.'S ARRIVAL

An urgent call is being made for the opening of opportunities for 11 Displaced Persons or families who will be landing in San Francisco the last of this month. They are European people caught in Chinese cities and who have temporarily been in the Philippines, but are bieng brought into the United States through a blanket assurance. Among them are a baker and cook, an agriculturist and railway mechanic, a typist and seamstress, a carpenter, an electrician with his wife who is a dressmaker, a manicurist with her daughter, a farmer, and so on. If any of our churches or church people would like to help find such an opportunity, please write or telephone Rev. Richard Norberg, Bridge and Birch Streets, Hayward, or phone LUcerne 7-5033.

Sincere Thanks

The Chesters and the members of the Sierra Arden Church would like to make known to all the Congregational Churches of Northern California their sincere appreciation for the generous help that has come to us during the recent flood disaster.

As yet the parsonage and a part of the parish are not in safety as the dikes on our side of the river have all been washed away.

We are grateful that the church building was not in the scope of the river and was used by the Red Cross for the feeding of hundreds of people. The new church was a house of refuge and mercy to all people.

We are glad to be a part of a church fellowship that has been so kind and considerate; and in the days ahead we will count it a delight to share with you whatever we have that we too may be a deeper part of this inspiring fellowship of the Church of Christ.

ANTIOCH—Church School, choir, and Pilgrim Fellowship cooperated to produce an inspiring Christmas pageant attended by a capacity audience. Final reports on the Every Member Canvass indicate at least a 25% increase in benevolence giving over last year. The pastor, Rev. Herbert Dimock, has given leadership in the founding of a local Council of Churches.

CEDARVILLE, EAGLEVILLE — Rev. Charles A. McCalmon has been serving these churches since the early part of November. Real progress is being made in interesting the people of the community. The field is being visited on January 13 and 14 by Superintendent Harley H. Gill and by Rev. Robert Kennan, of Paradise, chairman of the Conference Committee on Church Development.

STOCKTON—The eighteenth consecutive midnight service on Christmas Eve was held, the building being crowded and the service beautiful and inspiring. New members were received the following morning, and the service again filled the sanctuary. The sermon subject of Rev. Noel J. Breed, the minister, was "Make Room for Angels." The church bazaar held November 30 netted more than $1100.

SAN FRANCISCO, PARK PRESIDIO — Twenty-three new members have been received in this church during recent weeks. Additional subscriptions are coming in for the Forward Movement Fund. On Christmas morning at 6 o'clock, a pilgrimage was made to a manger that had been arranged in the church sanctuary. Rev. Robert W. Moon is pastor.

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES ON THE JOB

HAYWARD—The services of the ristmas season were especially well ended, with some 900 present ristmas Sunday morning and 550 the traditional candle-lighting vice presented by the Pilgrim Fel wship on Christmas Eve. A success l Every Member Canvass was con cted in late November in which e proposed $32,000 budget for 1951 s underwritten. Twenty-two foreign dents from the University of Cali rnia and Stanford University were tertained in homes of church mem rs at Christmas in a project spon red by the church's Social Action ommittee. New members received to the church during 1950 totalled 20, including the DP family brought Hayward a year ago. New standards enrollment and attendance have een adopted by the Church School, hich is doing much to assure better pil participation. A "blanket sub cription" to The Pacific for all mem ers of the church has been voted by he Board of Trustees for 1951. wenty young men from the church e now serving in the armed services. memorial service was held recently or a former Pilgrim Fellowship mem er who was killed in Korea.

SAN LORENZO—The choir did a eautiful job in presenting the "Mes iah." The Every Member Canvass as a success, securing pledges of 1,000 in excess of the goal. Some roublesome back insurance costs have een cleared up. During the period f heavy rains, there was some diffi culty with water in the basement, but t can be remedied. The minister, Rev. Homer A. Schwarz, and the peo le of his church shared with the whole community in hard work for much of a week to protect their homes rom the raging torrents of San Lorenzo Creek.

SOQUEL—Rev. T. Davis Preston has completed ten years of service, the longest pastorate of the more than 30 ministers who have been in this parish in the 82 years of its history. The church has received the gift of a fine piano. The grounds were il luminated and people came from the whole area to see a Christmas display. Besides the usual Christmas emphasis in services of worship, there was a half-hour midnight service Christmas Eve.

SAN FRANCISCO, CHINESE—On Sunday, December 17, an all-church Christmas program was held with adults and children participating and receiving presents. Early in December there was a church Thanksgiving Dinner served in the new social hall. All facilities were crowded. Rev. Bing Yee Leong is pastor, and Herbert Ho is helping as youth director and adviser.

OAKLAND, PILGRIM — Rev. George W. Lindsay, pastor, was the speaker during November at Plymouth House and at the Piedmont Church. The newly formed junior high choir furnished music for the annual Christmas pageant. On the evening of the 24th, a midnight candlelight service was given by the senior high choir.

SUNOL—A men's club has been organized, with excellent attendance. Two new floor furnaces have been installed and paid for. The little building was crowded, with 110 people, for the Christmas program. Benevolences have reached a new high point. Rev. Robert B. Whitaker is pastor.

PLEASANT HILL — This new project, which is still in process of organization, is to be known as Hillcrest Congregational Church. The first general Every Member Canvass, held on December 3, was to secure supplemental pledges to the subsidy provided by the national Board and the Conference. Forty-nine pledges amounting to $3,260 were secured, an average of $66 per pledge. This is a remarkable showing for a work that has been going less than six months. More than 150 children are now enrolled in the Church School and more than 150 parents and children attended the Church School Christmas program. The church sponsored a community-wide Christmas carol sing at Gregory Village shopping center. A mimeographed newspaper, entitled "The Paean," has been started. Rev. Robert Carlson, pastor, is meeting each Saturday with a high school class studying the book, "Our Church." Ninety are on the charter membership list.

SAN FRANCISCO, FIRST — Sixteen members were received into the church on Thanksgiving Sunday. A total of more than $1100 was cleared by the Women's Association bazaar and luncheon. A splendid fellowship hour is made possible by a simple luncheon served immediately after the Sunday morning service. No program is offered and it is purely informal. Mr. H. Carlisle Estes has been named Minister of Music and is launching a children's choir. Congregations have shown a steady gain. Rev. William E. McCormack, pastor, will be in attendance at the Mid-Winter Meetings in Grand Rapids.

OAKLAND, FIRST — President Stuart L. Anderson, of Pacific School of Religion, was guest preacher on December 10. Seventy-three of the young people went caroling on Sunday, the 17th, and were entertained by Rev. and Mrs. Clarence Reidenbach at the Manse. Gifts were brought by clubs and by the church school for various worthy causes. Eleven o'clock service on December 17 was given over entirely to a beautiful Christmas service of music. An offering for the Centennial Fund of the Conference amounted to about $797.

SAN LEANDRO, BROADMOOR —To observe "the happiest month of the year," Broadmoor Church had a pot-luck dinner with the motion picture, "Second Chance," an evening of fun following another dinner, a Loyalty Sunday, and a great Christmas service. The Building Fund is still climbing. The costs are within the contractor's estimates. New space will be available soon after the first of the year. Rev. Jacob H. McCartney is pastor.

PETALUMA—The members of the children's choir presented Mrs. Herbert Gans with a fine waffle iron and two figurines in appreciation of her training of them and her kindly leadership. As a result of volunteer pledge offerings, the goal for Our Christian World Mission is in sight, and the resources for the local budget are at a higher level than at any time in the history of the church.

CLOVERDALE—By the time this issue reaches its readers, the Cloverdale Church will celebrate an anniversary and have a service of recognition of the coming of Rev. Joseph H. Bennett as pastor. All departments of the church are showing increased strength and growth.

FRESNO, FIRST—A new parsonage three blocks from the new church has been purchased for $21,275, which will be occupied by Rev. John H. Gregg and his family. The old parsonage near the old church has been sold. The church has adopted the suggested benevolence goal of $3,672 for 1951 to be included in the $35,462 budget. Forty-seven new members were received on December 17, making a total of 219 new members received since the new church was dedicated a year ago. The members of the church are justly proud of the part played by the church in the California Congregational Centennial Year, in the relocating and dedication of a $178,000 church edifice and in the raising of an additional $120,000 for further expansion of the Sunday School and educational work. Since Dr. Gregg came to the pastorate of the church nine years ago 907 new members have been received and the apportionment giving has increased from some $600 to $3,672.

SAN MATEO—The full goal for church support and Our Christian World Mission has been subscribed. More than $80,000 has been raised for the new educational unit. Seventeen new members were received during the past month. The church and its ministers, Rev. Benton S. Gaskell and Rev. Terence Stoker, did an outstanding job in entertaining the Pilgrim Fellowship Midwinter Conference at the San Mateo Junior College campus. Three Christmas services brought the largest attendance in recent history, 700 persons being present at two morning services and standing room only on Christmas eve.

LODI, FIRST—The plan of "Centurian Captains" has been put into effect and is making splendid progress. It is similar to the plan of "colonies," each group having a leader to assist the pastor in contacting regularly all members of the church. Nearly all of the 1951 budget was pledged on Canvass Sunday. At the beginning of Sunday services during December the decorating committee had a candle-lighting. The day of prayer for peace was observed on Sunday, December 24. The young people went caroling, visiting shut-ins. Rev. A. R. Boone is pastor.

BERKELEY, FIRST — Thirty-one new members were received on December 3. It is a matter of surprise and concern to his many friends in the church and out how many speaking engagements across America Rev. Vere V. Loper, the pastor of this church and the national moderator, is able to make besides maintaining the heavy program of a great church. Let us pray that health, strength, and divinely protecting care shall be with him.

PORT CHICAGO — Mr. W. S. Van Winkle has given the church the loan of a Hammond organ. New robes for the choir were purchased by Pilgrim Fellowship young people and their friends. More than 160 were present at the church school Christmas program. Mr. Louis B. Gerhardt is pastor.

SACRAMENTO, PIONEER — More than 600 people were in attendance at the Christmas Candlelight program under the direction of the Mayflower Club. A goodly delegation attended the Pilgrim Fellowship Conference at San Mateo. Rev. Torrance Phelps and Rev. Orval S. Clay are pastors.

MODESTO — The Rev. Elmo Wolfe closed his work as of the 15th of November and departed for an extended visit with parents of both Mr. and Mrs. Wolfe. Rev. Sidney H. Buckham, director of Church Extension for the Conference, has been supplying the church and has been spending a good deal of time in the field on visitation while an active search is going on for a new minister. Beautiful Christmas services were held. The territory immediately around the church is being built up very rapidly. More and more people are moving in. One great day school has been completed immediately adjoining our property, and a junior high is in process of construction directly across the street. The surrounding area will be one of the best fields which any of our churches in California are facing.

BERKELEY, NORTH—Two happy occasions marked the month of December: Homecoming Day which has come to be an annual event and which brought out a very large congregation and many greetings from old-time friends. Christmas Sunday was Family Day with parents and children attending church together. Six new members were received into fellowship. The young people of the church are very active, meeting their pledge to Our Christian World Mission, caroling shut-ins and older people during the holiday season, and having some extended vacation conferences. Rev. Williston Wirt is the pastor.

SAN FRANCISCO, ST. JOHN'S FEDERATED—The framework of the church is up. A contractor is making splendid progress. Average church attendance, though held in the home of Rev. Horst Jeschke, has been most encouraging. Articles of Incorporation are being put in order, the official name of the church to be St. John's Federated Church. The Board of Directors of the new corporation will supplant the sponsoring committee. The Congregational Church Building Society has authorized its appropriation toward the completion of a first unit.

PARADISE—The effort to buy a projector has matured, and a good one has been ordered. This was pushed by the 35-50 Club, an organization of couples within those age limits. Social organizations such as the Friendly Folks (people over 50) and the Meet-and-Eat Club (couples between 20 and 35) as well as the Winslow Circle, church school, PF, and other groups contributed to it. On October 15, 5 new members were received into the church fellowship; and on December 17, 7 more joined. Rev. Robert Kennan is pastor.

ORINDA — Financing arrangements are all but complete so that the church may proceed with its building program in accordance with the plans which have been drawn. Eight hundred people attended the Christmas service at the Orinda Theater. Rev. Godfrey Matthews has completed a preaching mission, to which there was an excellent response. Eleven new members were received into the church during December. Rev. Fred R. Morrow is the pastor.

ALAMEDA—Betty Conard, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Ralph Conard, was married to Mr. William Sansome on Sunday, December 17. Pacific extends its hearty congratulations.

WOMEN'S FEDERATION NEWS

Mrs. E. B. Kientz, Correspondent

The next regular meeting of the Federation will be held on January 18, 1951, at First Congregational Church, Oakland.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR to all readers of these columns in The Pacific. With no meeting of the Federation in December to report, we shall try to give various items of interest.

First a bit about literature: The new "American Board Year Book and Prayer Calendar for 1951" is ready. It comes with thumbnail sketches of missionaries and other information as well. Be prepared to get yours for 50 cents at the January meeting, or orders may be sent to Mrs. W. F. Pemberton, 608 Santa Fe Avenue, Berkeley. Then there is the monthly newsletter about "Christian Family Life" which is of special interest because it is one of our Thank Offering projects. It contains inspirational material as well as practical suggestions such as carried out in one town where the church school substituted for Hallowe'en "Trick or Treat" a collection of gifts for Christmas for children of other lands.

Conference Delegates

It isn't too early to begin thinking about the Conference. It will meet in May in Fresno and over a weekend. The Federation has asked the Conference Program Committee for an opportunity to dedicate the Thank Offering there. Perhaps this may be in a joint session sponsored by the Laymen's Fellowship and the Federation. Couldn't each local women's group send a delegate—pay her expenses and ask her for a report at the next meeting of the group? This was suggested last year by our president, Mrs. W. B. Buckham.

Message From Our President

As to our president, she has done a great deal of speaking for local groups the year just past, and one of her topics has been "Let's Piece a Comforter," which title seems very appropriate in these troubled times. If the church (with the help of the women) can't piece a complete and warm comforter, what or who can?

By taking liberties with one verse of the hymn, "God of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand," and substituting two lines of her own, Mrs. Buckham suggests it be our thought in these days of dark discouragement that we can pray that each of us may keep our lives an open line of communication with the Almighty God.

"Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way,"
Lead us, O Lord, through each disheartening day;
"Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,"
Keep Thou our souls in constant touch with Thine.

From Associations

This fall Mrs. Buckham has been making a special effort to promote more active fellowship among the smaller units, the associations; that all the churches, small, large, isolated, or those near together might gain a broadening vision beyond local needs and in a wider fellowship of friendliness. Perhaps a glimpse of what some of the local groups are doing will be helpful to others.

From Upper Bay where Mrs. John Fleming is association president come some interesting items. The Hillcrest Congregational Church near Concord is the newest church in this area. Your correspondent saw a copy of "The Paean," the very first edition of their monthly newsletter for their constituents gotten out by two women. Under the heading, "Guild Christmas Party Sports Santa," we read: "Tuesday evening, December 12, found the women of the church enjoying a well-planned and fun-filled evening of real Christmas gaiety in the home of Mae Carlson. The program got off to a good start with a recording of Dickens' "Christmas Carol," following which a few games were played, and carols were sung by the entire group under the direction of Peg Disney. Climaxing the evening was the timely arrival of Santa Claus who strangely resembled our own Bob Carlson. Refreshments were served."

The guild of the church is rapidly becoming one of the most valuable organizations in the church. It has already sponsored a series of social events, assisted in general activities, and will be in charge of the next "Family Night." Rev. Robert Carlson is the minister and has been on the job since July 1, 1950.

Antioch women are busy. The Friendship Circle has purchased a kodachrome projector with proceeds from its November bazaar, and the Women's Service Club has assumed the payments on the new Baldwin electronic organ which was dedicated on Sunday, November 26. The calendar for November 19 carried an insert which gave an excellent report of the Fall Meeting of the Federation held at Lodi and of the meeting of the Upper Bay Association which was held in Rio Vista. This seemed to us a very fine idea which could be used by other churches so all the church family could know what was going on even if they could not attend.

In Central Association where Mrs. Myrtle Looser is president, contacts have been made with two of our German Congregational Churches. The Elk Grove Church is now one of our Central Association churches, having been voted in at the request of the church last May at Santa Cruz. Its women's group is called the Plymouth Circle and has 22 members. They held a bazaar in November, and the proceeds will be used for their new church. They have already helped with the painting, beautifying the altar, and hanging a large drapery between sanctuary and social hall.

The Ladies' Aid, Circle Two of the Ebenezer Church of Lodi, not only entertained the Federation so graciously in October, but also on December 6, the teachers of Northern San Joaquin County, and served them a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings. In November the group joined the Men's Group in a fellowship basket supper after which they all enjoyed a play entitled "Wake Up, Dad." In December Mrs. C. F. Brost, wife of the minister, presented a most entertaining program, after which gifts were exchanged and "Secret Pals" revealed. A number of these women have attended Federation meetings with Mrs. Looser this year.

The women of the First Congregational Church of Lodi did some very special decorating for the Christmas season. During the recent flood conditions in their area, they made hundreds of sandwiches for those who were patrolling the levees and helping those caught in the flood area.

Mrs. Sanford Siegrist, president of the Bay Association, has visited most of the large number of women's groups in her area. She tells us of the Women's Hour of the Bay Association which met in San Lorenzo. Mrs. Hiroshi Izumi told of the Fujinkai (women's group of the Oakland Japanese Church). The group is small, and Japanese is spoken. One does not have to understand their language to feel their sincerity and devotion to their church. Ten of their small number are among the One Million Protestant Women to register for the United Council of Church Women. The San Lorenzo women served a very good dinner from their newly finished stainless steel kitchen.

Mrs. Denver Wood of the Eden Church in Hayward told how their women's organization had united in one fellowship with nine circles. They have found that they could change old customs and habits to improve without losing their good fellowship.

Mrs. George Thomson of First Church, Oakland, feels that the women's group is an integral part of the church; therefore, the women must strive to put the church first in their plans and carry out all plans in the way church women should.

BERKELEY, ARLINGTON—This was a busy church at Christmas time. The high school young people put on a Christmas Eve play entitled, "Pop Reads the Christmas Carol," a comedy. An augmented choir gave an excellent rendition of the "Messiah" on the evening of December 21. Midnight services were held on Christmas Eve. At the 9:30 service on the 24th, the building was crowded, with people standing, and at 11:00 it was well filled. Nineteen new members were received into fellowship.

EUREKA—All three choirs made a very impressive service of music on Christmas morning. The congregation numbered more than 200, the largest for that day of the year that most people can remember. Morning services during December and January are being broadcast, the Christmas service being recorded and then sent over the air between nine and ten in the evening. Rev. James P. Senter is pastor.

MARTINEZ—This church has a very able young couple, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Johnson, students at Pacific School of Religion, as assistants to the minister, Rev. Donald F. Gaylord. Eleven new members were received in November, bringing the total for the year up to 71. A Displaced Persons family has been welcomed by the church and is now happily settled.

Look for Church by Church report of O.C.W.M. and also of Thank Offering in the February issue.

HAYS ORDAINED

On December 7 a council of th vicinage met at the Penngrove Churc Rev. H. J. Loken called the meetin to order, and Rev. H. C. Gans w elected moderator and Rev. James V Montgomery scribe. The followin churches were represented: Cota Fairfax, Kenwood, Guerneville, Gle Ellen, Petaluma, Santa Rosa, and M Valley. The Penngrove Church ha applied for ordination of its ministe Mr. Laude W. Hays, under the pr visions of the amendment to the B Laws of the Conference adopted Santa Cruz last May.

After Mr. Hays had presented h paper and submitted to oral exam nation, the council voted unanimous to proceed with his ordination, as local minister. The sermon w preached by Rev. Frank E. Carlson Guerneville, the ordination prayer w given by Rev. H. J. Loken of Ke wood, the charge to the candidate b Rev. William E. Welch of Santa Ros and the charge to the church and th right hand of fellowship by the mo erator. Rev. Gordon L. Foster Mill Valley read the Scriptures an Rev. James W. Montgomery of Fai fax offered the invocation.

SIERRA ARDEN FLOOD

(Continued from page 1, col. 3)

third, the budget of the church, sinc some 20 or 30 families who wer flooded may not be able to carry ou their pledges in full: and fourth, few families, while hesitating to ac cept any charity, should have som help. It may take several month before full use can be made of th fund, but the promptness with whic the splendid response came brough cheer and a feeling of fellowship o the part of our Sierra Arden peopl that will never be forgotten.

Rev. Mary McKee Chester and Rev Joseph Chester have rendered yeoma service. They kept people in the up stairs rooms of their own home durin part of the worst stage of the floo They have worked day and night i cleaning and nursing and cooking an serving meals. Best of all, they rad ated courage and good cheer. Afte two Sundays, when the church wa in use as a relief center, they carrie on normal church and church schoo services. The community has bee made to feel an interest in the churc which never existed before, and wi do much for strengthening it in day to come. The Building Society ha made appropriations for the next un of the building, plans have bee drawn, and the work will go forward

Chapel of the Chimes

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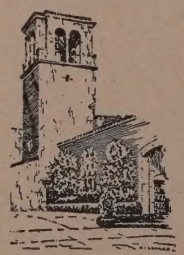

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Santa Rosa

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